

FACT SHEET



How Do I Clean up Lead-Contaminated Waste?

Proper Methods for Cleaning up During and After Housing Projects That May Involve Lead-based Paint

If your home was built before 1978 and you plan to renovate or remodel your home, be aware that lead-based paint may be present in your home. In order to keep lead hazards to a minimum while working on lead abatement, renovation, and remodeling projects, pay special attention to cleanup activities that will help prevent contaminating other areas or exposing people to lead. Use the following guidelines when determining what is necessary to protect yourself, your family, and any workers.

Type of Cleanup	GUIDELINES
Personal Cleanup	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not take off respirator until after removing outer protective clothing.• Vacuum dust from clothing using a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum.• Wash hands and face when leaving the work site.• Change clothes and shoes before leaving the work site.• After removing clothes, wash them separately from other family laundry.• Shower and wash hair right after completing work.
Daily Site Cleanup	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dispose of construction trash in a heavy-duty plastic bag.• If possible, remove trash through a window to avoid carrying it through the house.• Strain out paint chips from liquid waste and dispose of them in a heavy-duty plastic bag.• Mop floors with a powdered, high phosphate automatic dishwasher detergent in areas where there is little dust, or vacuum with a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum cleaner.• Use a disposable mop.• Change mop water frequently and rinse with clean water.• Vacuum plastic sheeting/ polyethylene covering for wall-to-wall carpet with a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum cleaner.• Wet-sweep outside areas and trash by using a garden hose water spray to alleviate dust.• Avoid dry sweeping.• Shovel the trash into heavy-duty plastic bags.• Clean tools with a powdered, high phosphate automatic dishwasher detergent.• Seal off entryways with 6 mil polyethylene plastic if you have to leave the work site unattended.
Final Cleanup	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start cleanup work from the dirtiest part of the work area and work toward the cleanest area of the house.• Work from the top of the room toward the bottom, cleaning ceilings first, then walls, counters, and floors.• Carefully remove plastic sheeting used to protect surface by rolling or folding inward.• Wash floors and walls with powdered, high phosphate automatic dishwasher detergent.• Vacuum floors, walls, and any carpeting with a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum cleaner.• Vacuum baseboards, chair rails, window sills, casings, shelves and counter-tops again, once they are dry.

****If you decide to hire a contractor (i.e. remodelers, home repair services), you can protect yourself, your family, and your property by ensuring that he/she follows the OSHA rule 29 CFR 1926.62, "Interim Final Rules for Lead in Construction Standard".****

To obtain the EPA booklet "Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home", or for additional information, please call the National Center for Healthy Homes www.centerforhealthyhousing.com; EPA www.epa.gov/lead National Lead information 1-800-424-lead; HUD U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (202) 755-1785; or Hearing Impaired Federal Information Relay Service 1-800-877-8339.